

Once upon a time there lived a shy little horse in a large grassy field next to a red barn. The little horse would never venture near unfamiliar visitors nor would he speak much to the other barnyard animals unless he had to. Visitors came to the Rolling Hills Farm frequently, and many of the animals walked up to the fence to be patted on the head or fed an apple or two. The shy little horse, however, would gallop down to the end of the five-acre field upon seeing a visitor. He was afraid they would try to put a heavy harness around his neck.

One morning a strange man walked slowly up to the fence near where the shy little horse was chewing on some sweet, tender spring grass. The shy little horse ran down to the back field and nervously trotted up and down the fence. He peered back to see if the strange man was pursuing him with a saddle or a harness. When he saw that the man did not chase him, he stopped worrying and began to graze again. For several hours the man continued to lean against the fence. Then he left as quietly as he had arrived.

The next morning the strange man appeared at the fence again. The shy little horse ran to the back field until he was sure that the man was not after him. After many minutes had passed, the strange man

began to whistle a soft melody. The shy little horse became curious, and he wandered carefully toward the man, making sure their eyes did not meet. The man continued to whistle and the shy little horse found it pleasing to his ears. Then the strange man left, and the shy little horse found himself missing the man and the songs that he whistled.

The next morning the man appeared again, and he whistled for the shy little horse to come over to the fence. There he held out his hand which contained three cubes of sugar. The shy little horse slowly nibbled at the sugar cubes and then licked the strange man's hand in search of any morsels of leftover sugar. Then the man placed a halter around the horse's neck and led him to a shy little boy. The little boy was the man's son and he was shy, just as the little horse was, and the man knew they would grow to be friends together.

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